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THE ORBIT OF HO 212 = 13 CETI.¹

In number 104 of these *Publications* a note on this interesting binary system will be found giving my measures in 1905, which indicated a revolution period of about $7\frac{1}{2}$ years. Measures made in 1906 confirm this conclusion, the companion-star being now within a few degrees of the position it occupied in 1899.

Using Dr. SEE's measure in 1899 and my own made in the following years (the only ones known to me), I have derived the set of elements here given. They satisfy the observations on which they were based within the probable error of measure, and also satisfy the two early measures by HOUGH in 1886 and 1887.

It is now certain that 13 *Ceti* has a shorter period than any other known visual binary except δ *Equulei*. A well-defined proper motion adds to the interest of the system.

ELEMENTS.

$P = 7.42$ years.	$\omega = 51^{\circ}.75$
$T = 1905.28$	$\Omega = 50^{\circ}.40$
$e = 0.74$	$i = \pm 48^{\circ}.05$
$a = 0''.214$	Angles increasing.

January 24, 1907.

R. G. AITKEN.

NOTE ON COMET *h* 1906 (METCALF).

This comet was discovered near opposition by Rev. J. H. METCALF, of Taunton, Mass., from a photograph taken November 14, 1906. The discovery position is $\alpha = 4^{\text{h}} 4^{\text{m}} 35^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = -2^{\circ} 15'.8$.

No preliminary elements were computed here for either this comet or Comet Thiele, which was discovered at about the same time, as the observatory force was crippled by the illness of Mr. EINARSON, Assistant in Astronomy, so that no time was available for computing.

Later, however, two sets of elements based upon longer arcs were derived, and the results have been published in *Lick Observatory Bulletin* No. 108. The first set is based upon FATH's observations of November 17th, 25th, and December 5th. It was found that no parabola could be passed through

¹ A more detailed account is given in *Lick Observatory Bulletin*, No. 110.

these positions. They are represented, however, by an elliptic orbit in which the comet has a period of 6.9 years.

An observation by Dr. AITKEN, made December 18th, is not very closely represented by these elements. It was therefore decided to correct them by means of this observation. The resulting second set is also elliptic, giving a period of 8.2 years. The plane of the orbit is inclined nearly 15° to the plane of the ecliptic. The comet made its nearest approach to the Sun, 150 millions miles, October 5th. It is a new member of *Jupiter's* family of comets.

At the time of discovery it was very faint and was receding from both the Earth and the Sun. At present it can be seen in only the largest telescopes, its brilliancy being less than one fourth of what it was at discovery.

RUSSELL TRACY CRAWFORD.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,
January 18, 1907.
